

SU DP Welfare - Cathal Ronan – 2012-2013 Feedback

Why run for sabbatical officer?

Why not? I think is the real question. What do you gain to lose from running? Even if you're not successful in your campaign it is still a chance to learn and develop. And if you are successful it's a chance to prove what you can do and give back to both the student and university community. Every year the SU needs good candidates to support the students on a variety of issues in different roles. Mainly it gives you a platform to voice and make a change for good for all of the students you represent but it also builds you as a person and your skills set for the future

What is a sabbatical officer?

A sabbatical officer in my opinion is more than a title. You're a friend, a colleague, a peer and an advisor. You are the person a student goes to when they have a problem, an idea or just want to talk. In essence you are their representative but also a problem solver. All for one and one for all!

How many Sabbatical officers are there?

Three in total, President, Deputy President & Welfare, and Vice President & Academic.

What are SU Officers responsible for?

Each role is varying in terms of the responsibilities, each more specific than the other. But fundamentally the basic principle of each position is that you are responsible for representing the well-being and continuous improvement of the student experience for all students in the University. Obviously there is more to it than that but you get the gist.

Is it paid?

Yes! It is a full time job. You are paid 44 hours per week at a rate of minimum wage + €1. However you are also expected, like any company, to work extra hours where it is needed. But really, if you love the job like I did, it's not really work.

What is ULSU Student Executive?

Think of yourself in as the CEO and this is your board of directors made of up students from all walks of life representing different sections of the student experience.

What is ULSU Student Council?

Still thinking of yourself as the CEO. We'll the council are the investment managers for the shareholders (all the students*they're actually stake holders, no dividends paid here I am afraid!*) The council is made of class reps who represent each class (from 4 students to 400 students)

Will I get any training?

Formal training, yes you will at the start. But realistically the entire experience is training. There will be things thrown at you (not literally) that you haven't dealt with before and nor could you train for. This is where the rest of the SU falls into place to support you. Just like the Students have the SU and are not alone. You have the SU too and all it's Alumni!

What position should I run for?

The position you think you could really excel in. Essentially the choice is yours, no one can really tell you the position you should go for it has to be decided by yourself. Of course you can reach out to current and ex sabbats to get a feel for each role and make your mind up on that!

Are there election rules?

Yes – Ask Liz :P

How much should I spend on an election campaign?

I think 200/300 is the norm (correct me if I am wrong). But think smart and outside the box and you can do it for a lot cheaper. Essentially it's down to you and how active you want to be. If you have a good team behind you then you're already have way there!

What is a manifesto?

A manifesto is what you plan on doing if you are given the opportunity to represent the student body in whatever office you run for. Bear in mind though you have to be practical about what you can achieve (selling the library to build a pool on the roof of it isn't one!) and have to think through what you actually want to do and why you are doing it. As I said earlier it's always good to bounce ideas off the current and previous officers! They know, they've all been through an election and have written a manifesto!